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CONTENTS

Editor Speaks!

Feature 4, 23 A Look Back 8 Coming Events Poetry 27 Art 12 Insights by J. Marish 14 Cover Story 16 Music 18 Theatre 20 Horrorscoops 22 "Gayluver's Travels" 24 Subscriptions Ask Aunt Bess 26 Community Resources 29 Classifieds 31

GROUND is published monthly by COBALT BLUE with the release date being the first day of each month. Advertising copy deadline is the 15th day of the month previous to release date.

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ABOVE GROUND PO Box 1656 Allentown, PA 18105-1656 With this issue of AboveGround, we are pleased to offer seven new distribution points in and around the Lehigh Valley.

Joining the six previous Lehigh Valley outlets are Open Space Gallery and Seattle Espresso, both conveniently located in downtown Allentown on the Hamilton Mall.

In addition, we will now be available in Reading as well as at four locations in New Hope. They are respectively, The Scarab, Blue Ribbon Gallery, The Book Gallery, The New Cartwheel and The Raven.

I would like to personally welcome all of our new readers, advertisers and distributors. It is our hope that you will enjoy every issue and will look forward to its release each month. Always, we welcome all submissions of stories, letters, poetry, questions and comments from our entire readership.

And again, Welcome!

Sunday, June 11 the Lehigh Valley Gay and Lesbian community will once again have the opportunity to come out and celebrate at the 1995 PRIDE Festival. Last year's festival, attended by a crowd estimated as high as one thousand people, turned out to be a fun day of music, food, art and celebration.

Because of the enormous amount of support the community has shown AboveGround magazine over the past eight months, we can't dream of being anywhere else on this day of celebration. Come rain or shine, we'll be there! I hope everyone takes this opportunity to celebrate our rightful place as full members of our world's community. Make sure to stop in at our table during the festival and let us know how we're doing!!

The Lehigh Valley PRIDE Festival will be held from 12 noon until 6 p.m. at Cedar Beach Park, between Hamilton Street and the American parkway, on Sunday, June 11. If you would like more information about the days events or would like to help out at the event, call the PRIDE Infoline at: 610-770-6200. Hope to see you all there!

M.Hemphill, editor

PRIDE: ITS NOT JUST A PARTY ...ITS AN ATTITUDE!

by Steve Black

June has traditionally been known as Gay and Lesbian Pride Month. This year our community celebrates the 26th anniversary of the Stonewall Riots that served to kick off the modern Gay and Lesbian Civil Rights Movement and the 2nd annual Lehigh Valley Pride Festival. Pride of the Lehigh Valley has planned a series of events including a film festival, a worship service, a dance party and of course the Pride Festival at Cedar Beach Park on Sunday, June 11.

When leaders of the Gay and Lesbian Community appear on local media shows, they are inevitably asked, by members of the "straight" community, "Why do gays and lesbians need a special day to celebrate their pride?"

These people really don't understand the answer because they tend to be blinded by their heterosexism. As members of the Gay and Lesbian Community know so well, everyday is "heterosexual pride day". The Gay and Lesbian Community has its own culture, but that culture is consumed by the culture of the majority. Movies, television, newspapers, books, music, plays, the educational system, religious organizations and the



"The staff and management of Candida would like to thank our many friends who came out for our week-long, 15 Year Anniversary Celebration. We all had a great time and hope you did as well!"

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political structure regulate Gay and Lesbian culture to inferior status. Gay and Lesbian Culture is dominated to the point of almost complete exclusion by the culture of the majority "straight community." Our culture is relegated to casual mention, guest appearances, and titillating side stories that serve only to boost ratings or add comic relief. Gay and Lesbian Culture is rarely taken seriously. Of course, over the past couple of years presentations of Gay and Lesbian Culture have improved but they are still only sporadic at best.

Gay and Lesbian Pride Celebrations are important because they serve to expose, not only gay men and lesbians but also the heterosexual community to the cultural achievements of our community. For a day or a week, gay and lesbian culture is the primary focus. We can celebrate the artistic, musical, religious, political and educational achievements or our community. The Festival instills in each of us a pride in being gay or lesbian that the culture of the majority attempts to take away from us every other day.

Every year, I leave gay and lesbian pride festivals with an inner feeling of self worth, dignity, and respect for myself, I'm sure others feel the same. These feelings serve to empower each of us. The pride that the Lehigh Valley Pride Festival and other events creates in each of us will allow us to make every day-Gay and Lesbian Pride Day. Remember, Pride is not just a party - its an attitude.

Kehilat HaNahar Recognizes Gay Pride Month with a Special Shabbat Service

Kehilat HaNahar, a progressive Jewish shul serving the eclectic communities surrounding New Hope and Lambertville, welcomes Lesbians and Gay men to share in the tradition of Judaism. On Friday, June 16, Kehilat HaNahar is recognizing Gay Pride Month with a special service and Oneg Shabbat.

The congregation is diverse, warm and genuinely welcoming of an active Gay membership. Jewish Lesbian and Gay men are encouraged to attend this special event. This isn't the synagogue you grew-up in. So if you have been turned off to the Jewish religion because of past experiences or family pressure, Kehilat HaNahar is a place where you can be comfortable, Or, if you are just looking for nice Jewish synagogue where you can worship freely with your partner and friends, this is the place for you.

Besides Sabbath services (which are the first and third Friday of each month), the Gay community is invited to attend and participate in all holidays, festival celebrations, social events, adult study courses in Hebrew, Torah study groups, and other social events



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that are quickly becoming a strong force in the life of Kehilat HaNahar members. Gay Women and Men, and their companions -- whether or not they are Jewish -- are always invited to share in all the celebrations and rituals of Jewish heritage.

The Gay Pride service which will celebrate the freedom of being Jewish and Gay in today's world, will be Friday, June 16, at 7:30 PM, with the Oneg following the service. Please call 609-397-1456 for directions and more information about Kehilat HaNahar.

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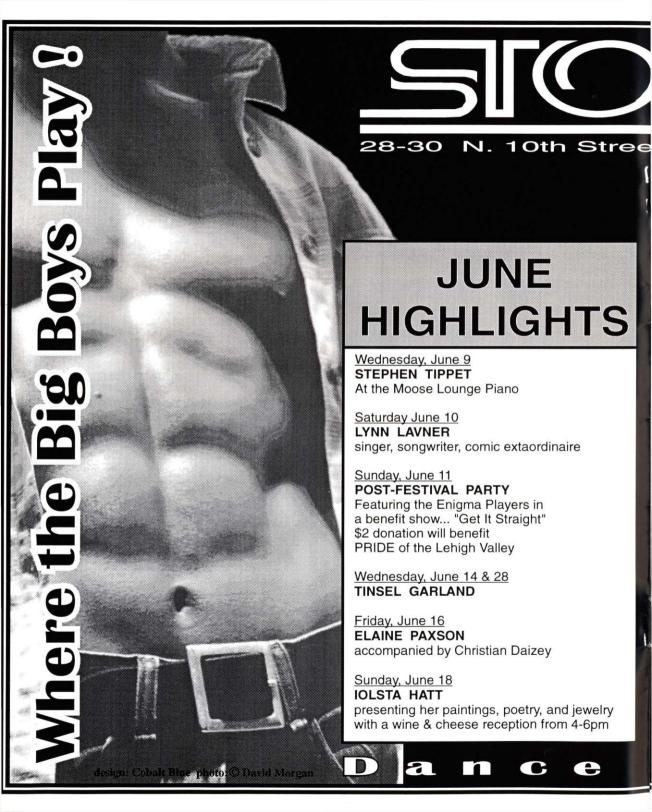
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ANNIVERSARY PARTY Wednesday, June 21

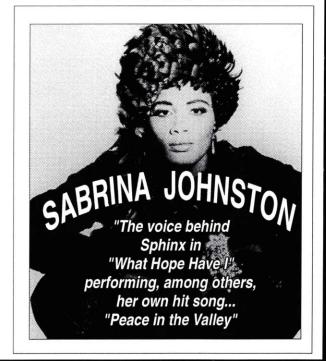
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A Look Back

HATS OFF TO YOU!

Saturday, May 13th, FACT Bucks County held their fourth annual May Ball. This year's event was appropriately titled, "Hats Off To You." The ball, in addition to being a great fundraising opportunity, doubles as an award ceremony dedicated to outstanding service and support over the past year.

The Cock & Bull restaurant in Lahaska, just outside of New Hope, served as the setting for this black-tie-optional affair. The evening started with cocktails and was followed by, as the program noted, "Real Short Speeches", The awards, dinner and then dancing to music by Dave Kim. At 10 PM a drawing was held for the raffle, tickets of which were sold before and during the event. The top three prizes were; First - a ladies diamond & gold watch and a man's Gold watch by Danielmink donated by Diana Michaels, Second - a hand-carved Noah's Ark including 32 pairs of animals donated by Jim Briggs & Doug Wilmont, and Third a

The event raised over 13,000 dollars and had 250 people in attendance. Bob Sweeney, who traveled from Allentown to take part, said that it was a very tasteful event, and that the restaurant's food and ambiance was excellent. Everyone who helped make this such a successful affair, can feel very proud of their work.

weekend at the Golden Plough Inn which included

dinner for two at Jenny's donated by Sharon Rossi.



DRAGGING AWAY AIDS

Thursday, May 18, Diamonz featured the Ms. Diamonz Cabaret to add to the fundraising efforts of FACT here in the Valley. This performance extravaganza was hosted by "Francine," Ms. Diamonz 1995. Eleven performers, including Francine, sang, strutted, and worked the crowd to raise

money for this well known organization. Five hundred dollars was raised between the cover and all of the tips collected.

In addition to Francine, the performers included:



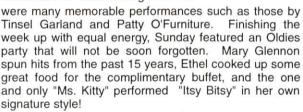
Barbara, Big Bertha, Cinnamon Stix, Emmanuel D'Cartier, Grace-E, Jaguar, Michael Paul, Page Turner, Patty Flamish, and Tracy Glass. All gave great performances that were enthusiastically appreciated by the crowd.



15 AND STILL GOING!

Throughout the week of May 15th, Candida celebrated its 15th anniversary. Each day of the week Dina and her staff offered the appreciative crowds great food, specials and entertainment. Some of the highlights through the week featured a pool tournament, great give-aways, drink prices from years gone by, and a Super Karaoke night followed by a sing-off at midnight.

With the weekend came more fun for everyone. Friday the crowd showed Lehigh Valley's true energy as they roared for the hunk at the male strip show. Saturday featured a fabulous show of Ida Rosenberg's Cavalcade of stars. Along with Ida



Candida commented that throughout the entire week, the amount of support and attendance was incredible. We at AboveGround wish to congratulate Dina on her 15 year anniversary. She has shown that through hard work, good friends, and dedication to ones goals, it is possible to keep a gay establishment up and running, even though situated in a neighborhood setting.

PARTY OF THE DECADE

FACT kicked off it's 10 year anniversary by holding a party on Sunday, May 21. The evening started off, at the Fearless Fire Co. in Allentown, with a welcome by Bob Jacobs, co-chair for the event. Public Affairs coordinator, Peggy Owens then introduced House Representatives, Charlie Dent and Karen Biscoli who delivered a proclamation of continued support. A huge wedding-style cake, donated by Village Bake Shop of Allentown, was then cut by FACT President, Keith Riley with the help of some of the grass-root founders of the organization.

Continued ... see PARTY pg. 10

STAR SERVERS RAKE IN THE TIPS!

Sunday, April 30, AIDS Services Center held their "Star Servers" benefit at the Allentown Hilton on the Hamilton Mall

This annual event always promises the opportunity to have a great time while raising money for a worthwhile cause. As was the case in previous years. this event turned out to have a seemingly endless

supply of entertainment possibilities.

The whole premise for this event, is that you get together with a group of 10 or 12 friends and reserve a table with your favorite "Star Server." This person. dressed up in some crazy outfit, does everything imaginable to make you part with the "ASC Dollars" you have purchased from the cashier.

The evening's events were set into motion with the introduction of the "Star Servers." The line-up included; "Judge Eato", "Princess K & The Troupe", "Camp Kamp", "Beverly", "Jen-'niffa' ", "Cool Jule", "Salsa Brad", "Rich the 'Skits' ", "Maureen, Most Wicked of Wenches", and "Gee, No One"-(apparently

literally true). After a stage performance by "Princess K & the Troupe." the entire cast of servers were able to start their shenanigans while the salad was being served.

If you were lucky, you didn't have to buy back your silverware in order to eat it! The night continued on through entree and dessert, all the while enhanced by the servers performing odd deeds, singing songs and

generally just acting up.

So many things occurred throughout the evening that one is hard pressed to remember just one. Some of the highlights of the night, however, were "Rich the Skitz" and his many well-paid vocal solos, "Salsa Brad" doing his own Latin version of "dollar a dance", the "Diaper man" wandering table to table causing both laughter and amazement, the poor women finally ransomed out of the "Camp Kamp" biffy, as well as one of it's counselors doing a bit of "shaving-for-dollars!" The undeniable showstealer, "Beverly" ended up raking in the most ASC Dollars for the night totaling almost \$400. Tim Galgoci, who played the ever-pesky "Beverly" (pictured), was unwilling to let anything, even humility, stand in his way of taking the lead. At one point was paid to do a strip-tease, and did so to the amusement (or horror!) of the audience, revealing his flesh-tone, padded body suit beneath!

ASC reported that the event raised 6,600 dollars, a combined amount from a silent auction held throughout, the ticket price collected from the 130+ participants, and over \$2000 raised by the Star Servers. Everyone who attended seemed to have a great time, and can feel proud about their contribution to keeping the AIDS Services Center providing its much needed service. ASC provides direct client assistance and preventative education to the Lehigh Valley men, women, and children who are infected or affected with HIV/AIDS.

If you missed out on this year's event, you may want to mark the beginning of next years calendar with a reminder about "Star Servers." Once you've experienced it, you are sure not to miss it again!



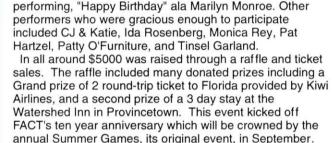
PARTY continued from pg. 8

Food and drinks were enjoyed by the crowd of about 150 people as they listened to music spun by Barbara Wentling. After overhearing that the scheduled DJ was not going to be available, Barbara's husband, President of the Club mentioned that his wife could DJ and would probably help out. She was quick to come to FACT's aid and was very appreciated.

The entertainment was



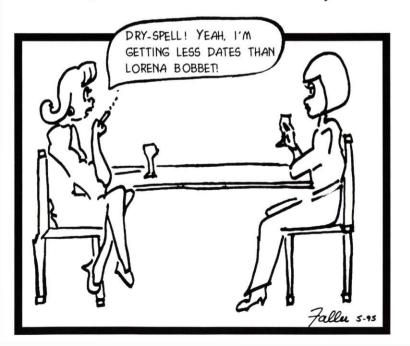




kicked off by "Francine" popping out of a cake and

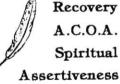


DRAG QUEEN CHRONICLESby Jeff Faller



Jacqueline Marish, M.A.

Counseling



Feminist Issues

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Coming Events

JUNE 3

- --WOMEN 2 WOMEN DIAMONZ / 7PM-2AM
- --COMMONBOND DIAMONZ / 9PM

JUNE 4

--MEMBERSHIP MEETING / 4PM PRIDE of the Lehigh Valley

JUNE 7

--TINSEL GARLAND CARTWHEEL

JUNE 9

--STEPHEN TIPPET STONEWALL / 10PM-1:30AM

JUNE 10

- --LAYMENS DAUGHTER DIAMONZ / 9PM
- --LYNN LAVNER STONEWALL / 11PM-12AM

JUNE 11

- --"LADIES" PARTY CARTWHEEL
- --Lehigh Valley PRIDE Festival Cedar Beach Park Allentown / 12-6PM
- --POSTPRIDE CELEBRATION featuring beer bash / 6-8PM DIAMONZ
- --POST FESTIVAL PARTY featuring show "Get It Straight" to benefit PRIDE STONEWALL / 6PM-2AM

JUNE 14

- --MARY BORHEK reading from her book "My Son Eric" Barnes & Noble Books / 7:30PM
- --TINSEL GARLAND STONEWALL / 12AM
- --THE DREAM TEAM male review CARTWHEEL

JUNE 16

--ELAINE PAXSON with Christian Daizey STONEWALL / 10PM-2AM

JUNE 17

--FACT SUMMER SOLSTICE 5:30PM / CALL:820-5519

JUNE 18

- --BINGO to benefit LVGLTF DIAMONZ / 3PM
- --WINE & CHEESE RECEPTION for lolste Hatt STONEWALL / 4-6PM

JUNE 21

- --TINSEL GARLAND
- --18 YEAR ANNIVERSARY featuring Ms.SABRINA JOHNSTON STONEWALL / show-11:30pm

JUNE 22

--DIAMONZ AL & The Lehigh Valley Girls to benefit LVGLTF DIAMONZ / 10PM

JUNE 24

--NINA PEARSON DIAMONZ / 9PM

JUNE 26

--DIVAS TO THE DANCE FLOOR WOODLANDS / 7PM

JUNE 28

- --TINSEL GARLAND STONEWALL / 12AM
- --THE DREAM TEAM male review CARTWHEEL

If you would like to be listed in the Coming Events section call AboveGround at: (610) 821-1321

WEEKLY

SUNDAY

- --KARAOKE DIAMONZ / 7pm-2am
- --BEER BASH CARTWHEEL / 4-6pm
- --KARAOKE STONEWALL /10pm-2am

MONDAY

- --ALL AGE NIGHT STONEWALL /10pm-2am
- --DRAG SEARCH with Monica Rey CARTWHEEL
- --GAY MOVIE NIGHT DIAMONZ / 7pm

TUESDAY

- --COUNTRY/WESTERN CARTWHEEL / 8:30pm
- --SLOW DANCE NIGHT DIAMONZ / 9pm-12am
- --COUNTRY / WESTERN STONEWALL /8pm-12am

THURSDAY

--KARAOKE CANDIDA / 10pm-2am

FRIDAY

--COUNTRY / WESTERN DIAMONZ /8pm-10:30pm





It is truly rare to meet a person, and instantly feel at ease in their presence. Our featured artist for this month's issue turned out to be just such a person.

Garyk Lee, a self-styled artist from the New Hope area, was born and raised in a small town north of Oklahoma City. While attending college at OK State for architecture, it became evident that his interests in art and design would soon lead him in another direction. At 22, he moved to LA. An early career designing concepts for party decor gave him the opportunity to do jobs for Rod Stewart, as well as for a DYNASTY cast party. He also designed sportswear for a company called ANGEL EYES.



In 1986, Garvk opened his own boutique in the Beverly exclusive. Hills His area. fashions soon caught the eye of female executives, nationally recognized celebrities, and well known department stores. He has had his fashions worn by Chapman Judith of DAYS OF OUR LIVES. Elke Sommer. Suzie Chaffee and Sean Young. He has also appeared numerous prestigious talk shows, most recently appearing with international critic Blackwell, known for his infamous "worst dressed" lists. Mr Blackwell was very impressed by Garyk Lee's fashions and said of him in part, "...I'm so glad to see there is hope for sanity of some degree in the fashion world, I think he has it."

Lee has also captured a great number of fashions in paint. He noted that he tends to picture everything with a name; sort of like when you see a person and say, "his name should be...he looks like As a result of this. fashions all have names which correspond with the painting that captures them. A good example of this is "Come Fly With Me," which is shown illustrated here at the upper right.



Feeling an overpowering urge, Lee moved to Manhattan in 1989, and relocated two years later to the Yardley/Newtown area of Bucks county. In what may seem like a totally different direction, Lee also designs unique home furnishings. One of his designs for a wrought iron chair is pictured to the lower right next to a wooden chair painted using a trompe l'oeil effect. One may think that he seems a bit scattered going between furniture, painting and fashion, but as he stated, "They're not that far removed. I see things in 3 dimensions. I'm balancing it and bringing it all together." He went on to explain that the initial process



of creating any of these objects is the common task of creating a sketch. From these initial drawings, it is possible to continue in any of these directions.

Throughout Garyk's works, one can easily sense a distinct similarity in form. He attributes this to a strong attraction to the fins



of the early-model Cadillacs which he has always incorporated into his art. He elaborated on this by noting that at every key turning point of his life, a finned Cadillac has always seemed to appear, possibly confirming a correct choice of direction. Consequently, it is no surprise that he has chosen, "Studio Deville" as the name for his new boutique, set to open soon in Frenchtown, NJ. Through it he will offer original furniture and fashion design as well as fashion and interior art. He also plans on creating unisex fashions which he will distribute through his studio as well as wholesaling to other quality boutiques.

Garyk Lee proved to be, upon meeting him, nothing one would expect for a person with so many incredible accomplishments. He projects a sense of self-balance which is not readily seen in individuals these days.

To find out more about Garyk Lee's works, please visit the, soon to open, STUDIO DEVILLE at 106 Harrison St. Frenchtown, NJ or call at (908) 996-2191.





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Sunday, June 4
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Friday, June 23 Latino Cabaret

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(4) INSIGHTS

by Jaqueline Marish, M.A.

Lesbian Partner Abuse

The issue of violence in lesbian relationships has been discussed within the battered women's movement for as far back as 1978. At that time there was concern that bringing the issue of lesbian violence into the public arena would reinforce homophobia as well as disrupt the emphasis of female battering as a consequence of male privilege and power in a patriarchal society.

Lesbian victims of battering have been reluctant to seek help for many of the same reasons that heterosexual women have been reluctant. Victims tend to blame themselves for the battering that occurs and believe that if they try harder to be a better partner the battering will stop. Victims do not want to accept the reality that the person that they love is in fact brutal to them. Victims may also be economically as well as emotionally dependent upon the batterer. A hope that things will get better in the life of the batterer will keep a victim stuck. The violence is not occurring because things aren't good enough in the batterer's life; the violence is occurring because the abuser wants power and control. Low self-esteem on the part of the victim can cause her to think that her relationship is normal as



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(610) 776-1691 • FAX (610) 776-1433 691 N. TRUMP ST., ALLENTOWN, PA 18103 a lesbian relationship, that the pressures and stresses of being a same gender couple mean most lesbian couples live with violence.

The victim of lesbian partner abuse often is isolated. She can not turn to friends because that would break the secret of the truth about the relationship. She may not have a strong support system to turn to because her battering partner is most likely her best friend. She also faces physical consequences if her partner learns that she has exposed her. The support system, if she does have one, may be lost by the victim, her best friend - lover will be lost to her, her isolation intensifies. Thus she faces embarrassing herself, embarrassing her lover, embarrassing themselves within the lesbian community which may not want to acknowledge that there is violence among lesbians.

Lesbian communities may want to support the idea that women aren't violent; all women are egalitarian, nurturing, kind. A lesbian victim makes us, particularly those of us who were or are active in the women's movement, confront our hopes that women know how to use power appropriately. It makes us confront our belief that women are not aggressive, that all women are holding feminist beliefs, that women do not cause serious physical harm. Lesbians do batter, lesbians are aggressive, lesbians cannot blame alcohol and other drugs for their battering. It's an issue of power and control whether the batterer is male or female, whether the victim is male or female, whether the couple is heterosexual or homosexual.

Lehigh Valley Election Results Primary 1995

by Steve Black, VP League of Gay & Lesbian Voters

In the Primary Election for Allentown City Council two candidates who indicated that they support an ordinance to prohibit discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation won. These included Democrat Emma Tropiano and Republican David Bausch. Four other candidates who did not respond to the League of Gay and Lesbian Voters Questionnaire also won including, Republicans Charles Canning and Scott McGovern and Democrats Tony Frey and Frank Concannon.

In race for Bethlehem City Council, Democrats James Gregory and Don Cunningham won. Both had indicated that they would support an ordinance to prohibit discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation. Four other candidates who did not respond to the League of Gay and Lesbian Voters Questionnaire also won including, Republicans Jack Abel, Raymond Bush, and Mark Parrish and Democrat Robert Donchez.

Allentown and Bethlehem will elect three members to their city councils in November.

SUNDAY TEA DANCE IS BACK

IT'S WEDNESDAY NIGHT!

TINSEL GARLAND June 7th & 21st

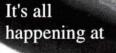
THE DREAM TEAM (Hot Male Strippers) June 14th & 28th

"LADIES" PARTY!

Sunday, June 11

- * 1 hour Open Bar
- Complimentary Buffet

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Weak! Tired! I've seen it all before!!

These are a few comments heard about Jimmy James just before his arrival in the Valley to perform at DIAMONZ in Bethlehem. It makes one ask if this is the same Jimmy James so many have scrambled to see in the past. Preliminary excitement of watching this longtime-favorite perform suddenly took on a more curious intention. Would we find that he was no longer able to deliver the electrifying performances his name had long been know for?

Sunday, April 30 the disco was filled with a good mix of men and women waiting anxiously for the second set to begin. Having arrived late, due to a local fund-raiser. it was quickly apparent that Mr. James' first act didn't reflect any of the negative comments heard in previous weeks. Talking with some of the anxious onlookers revealed that the first set was highlighted by James' vocal and visual impressions of Marilyn Monroe. He was said to have been flawless in recreating this character. Undoubtedly this is why she often comes to mind when one hears the name Jimmy James.

Although missing Mr. James' signature performance was an unfortunate occurrence, it did provide the opportunity to see the rest of his act unprejudiced by this sure-thing routine. James came back to the stage,

after a brief intermission Francine: Ms. Diamonz '95, to begin his second set, appropriately titled "Voices." This part of the show would depend more on the vocal and gesturing abilities of Mr. James than on the physical likeness to the characters.

After a bit of bantering with the audience, Jimmy kicked of the second set with a rendition of Ertha Kitt's "Go On Now Go." Upon closing your eyes, you were almost able to believe that Ertha was right there in front of you. It was later learned that James had previously performed with George Burns and Ms. Kitt in Baltimore. He had said to that audience. "You don't need Ertha Kitt, you've got me," and started in with her song, "I Want To Be Evil," whereupon Ertha jumped in, midstream, bringing the audience to their feet.

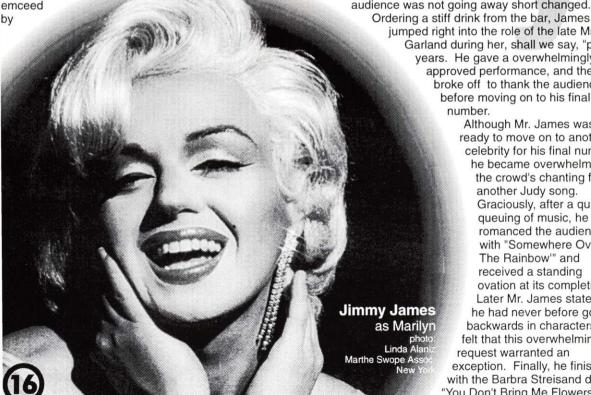
The show, this night, continued with James performing numerous celebrity voices ranging from Madonna to Patsy Cline. Flawless renditions of jazz great, Billie Holiday as well as his performance of "I've Written A Letter To Daddy" as "Baby Jane" (aka Bette Davis), kept the audience mesmerized and begging for more. The crowd burst into outrageous laughter as James camped with them, as Bette Davis, saving, "As long as there is a drag gueen, I will never be dead!"

Throughout the second act, James possessed a marked resemblance to yet another "gay favorite," This led one to ponder, "but what about Judy?" Well, this audience was not going away short changed.

> jumped right into the role of the late Ms. Garland during her, shall we say, "party" years. He gave a overwhelmingly approved performance, and then broke off to thank the audience before moving on to his final number.

Although Mr. James was ready to move on to another celebrity for his final number. he became overwhelmed by the crowd's chanting for another Judy song. Graciously, after a quick aueuing of music, he romanced the audience with "Somewhere Over The Rainbow" and received a standing ovation at its completion. Later Mr. James stated that he had never before gone backwards in characters, but felt that this overwhelming request warranted an exception. Finally, he finished with the Barbra Streisand duet,

"You Don't Bring Me Flowers..."



This hugely appreciated number was a true test of his vocal talents as he bounced back and forth between the male and female parts.

After the performance, James chatted with audience members while autographing hand-fans imprinted with his photograph as Marilyn Monroe. Due to the length of the show and the amount of people wanting to meet Mr. James, he agreed to talk with AboveGround at a later date.

Speaking with Jimmy, via telephone at his NYC home, we were able to find out a little bit more about him. Born and raised in San Antonio, Texas, James moved to Atlantic City in 1984 to perform in "La Cage" at BALLY'S. He continued for two years with the show, but felt his true talents were being wasted as he was only allowed to lip-synch the numbers.

In 1986, James moved to NYC and produced his first hour long show for performance in Provincetown, Mass. Over the last 9 years he has performed in just about every state, and has resided in L.A. as well as NYC. He studied 2-1/2 to 3 years during the eighties to develop his Marilyn character and has polished it to its current fame. He remarked that although he had become well known for this character, he had became tired of seeming one-dimensional, and therefore began working a larger variety of celebrity voices into his act. Each voice usually takes him about 2 years to develop to his satisfaction. In some cases he hasn't been able to nail

down a voice, and he mentioned that Aretha Franklin's has eluded him, causing him much frustration.

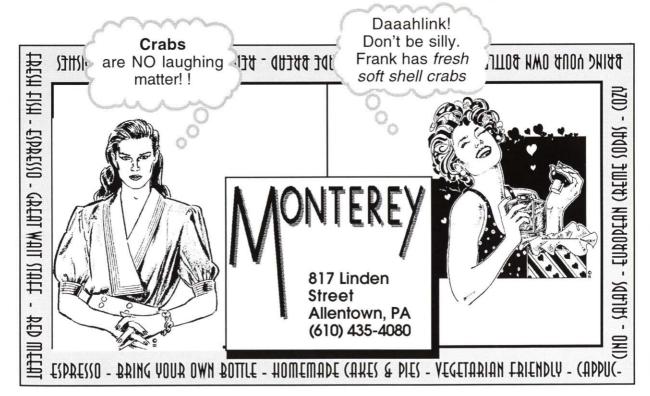
When asked about his future engagements and plans,

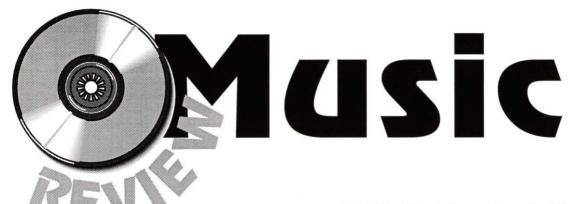
When asked about his future engagements and plans, James noted that he would be performing at the Duplex in NY every Tuesday in June followed by performances in Provincetown throughout July and August. His entire show will be taking on a more streamlined appearance, sans drag, and will be titled simply "Voices." In it he will apply the focus entirely on his wide range of vocal impressions without the distraction, or aid, of costume enhancement. In addition, he revealed that he has

started on his own recording career, and will be working with Miami singer/songwriter, Desmond Child after his engagement in Provincetown. James noted that he would be using his own, natural voice which he has held back from presenting during performance.

After experiencing the exuberant performance Jimmy

James presented at DIAMONZ on April 30, it became all too clear that he does still, in fact, have what it takes to keep an audience begging for more. His talent for visual illusion is only surpassed by his incredible ability to mimic the voices of a vast array of personalities. In a world, such as ours, so full of lip-synched performances, it is always refreshing to experience live vocals done so professionally. In closing conversation with Mr. James on the phone, he commented, "I had the best time at Diamonz, and can't wait to come back again. Everyone was really great!"





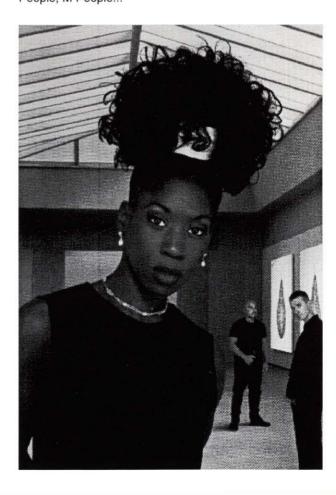
Title: BIZARRE FRUIT
Artist: M PEOPLE
Reviewer: C. Robert Frank

Poor Mitch, he waits so patiently for my reviews (which are always late) and this month I am offering only one. There are two reasons for this... First is that I want everyone reading this to simply remember M People, M People, M People. The second is that my life is so confused right now, and this album is my salvation and all I've been listening to! The lyrics in these songs seem so much like they are coming out of my own mouth that I want to call Heather Small and say "Girl, we need to talk!" This is not to say that I have been biased, for if the album stunk, I would have absolutely no problem tossing it aside, regardless of the words.

"Sight For Sore Eyes" opens the disc with its magnificent "Ain't love, ain't love, ain't love a surprise." This was a short lived club anthem at the beginning of the year, and is sure to re-surface soon with domestic mixes. "Search For The Hero" is a pleasant downtempo, early morning, self-discovery fare. "Open Your Heart" is the current club stormer peaking at #1 on the BILLBOARD dance charts. This song has such special meaning, but the album version lacks the intensity of the Brothers In Rhythm soundtrack mix available on CD single. To get the full emotional impact, buy the CD single and I'm sure there will be someone in your life you will want to play it for.

"Love Rendezvous" is destined for club release. This is probably the tightest offering by the band thanks to fierce backing vocals headed by Juliet Roberts.
"Precious Pearl" drops the BPM's and allows Heather Small's vocals to shine as she asks "Is this for real?"
"Sugar Town" is sweet, jazzy and mature. "Walk Away," the album's first ballad, is a great improvement from the ballads on Elegant Slumming. Maybe the song means something special to Ms. Small because her voice is clean and tight.

"Drive Time" is cute for a cruise on the OI' convertible. "Padlock" is a ultra-sexy cover of Gwen Guthrie's "82 garage classic. "And Finally..." is a culmination of the whole album's questions of love and relationships. They say that artists create their best works during trying times, so let's thank Pickering, Heard and Small for all being on the brink! So, remember... M People, M People, M People, M People!!!



וופד לטד גיעע

DJ: Mike Tolleson Bar: DIAMONZ

- 1. Shelter Me CIRCUIT
- 2. Love And Devotion (house mix) REAL MCCOY
- 3. Wiggle In Line BLACK DUCK
- 4. Love Come Rescue Me
- LOVE STATION
 5. Spirit Inside
- THE SPIRITS
 6. Give Me Your Life
- 7. Men Adore
 FIERCE CHILD
- 8. I Found Love C&C MUSIC FACTORY
- 9. Generate Power PHOTON INC.
- 10. Gotta Be Free THE MACK MACHINE

DJ: C. Robert Frank Bar: STONEWALL

- 1. I'm Ready SIZE 9
- 2. My Love KELLEE
- 3. Work It Out SHIVA
- 4. Legends Of The Dark Black, -part 2 (Renegade Master WILDCHILD
- 5. You Never Love The Same Way Twice ROZALLA
- 6. Manhattan Anthem (Where are we?)
 EAST VILLAGE LOFT
- 7. Diva
- CLUB 69
 8. Listen Me Tic
 INI KAMOZE
- 9. Higher Love WINTER DARLING
- 10. Why Not Believe In Him? MOREL INC.

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VJ: Mitzi D - STONEWALL

- 1. Bedtime Story (Juniors single mix)
 MADONNA
- 2. White Lines (Junior house mix)
 DURAN DURAN
- 3. Message Of Love LOVE HAPPY
- 4. Graduate GALA
- 5. Heartbeat (bonus video mix)
 JIMMY SOMMERVILLE
- 6. These Sounds Fall ...
 THE BUCKETHEADS
- 7. Tell Me When HUMAN LEAGUE
- 8. Kiss
 PUSSY TOURETTE
- 9. Deep Forest DEEP FOREST
- 10.Let The Beat Go On DR. ALBAN



20

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AboveGround is looking for an individual with background knowledge of theater to write reviews of local productions on a monthly basis. Interested persons should call (610)821-1321.

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We will be selling raffle tickets at area bars to be drawn at

the Festival June 11th. Grand Prize: 4-day / 3-nights accom. Key West, Florida!!

To volunteer for the 1995 PRIDE Festival Join us on Sunday, June 4th, 4:00pm at Grace Covenant Fellowship - 247 N. 10th St. or for more information call (610) 770-6200



I'm Ready to Sell My Home, How Do I Avoid Hiring the Wrong Agent by Gail Hoover, Realtor.

Planning to sell your home? How will you find the right agent to represent you? What traits should that person exhibit? When choosing an agent, expect excellence! That's right - "excellence." An individual who consistently outperforms others as a real estate representative will display certain characteristics or traits, all of which add up to real estate excellence.

What are these traits? Commitment, superior knowledge, empathy, enthusiasm, consistency and stick-to-itiveness are but a few. Here's why they are so important when selling your home.

Commitment is evidence of the desire to achieve an objective. When you list your home for sale, the objective is a favorable sale. Would you want anything less than your agent's total commitment to that objective?

Superior knowledge is the direct result of two things:

1.) Formal education 2.) Daily contact with buyers, sellers, attorneys, lenders, title companies, fellow agents and others directly involved in real estate. Look for an agent who regularly pursues additional training

and who is active in the local real estate market.

Empathy and enthusiasm can be found together in the successful agent. Look for a person who listens carefully to what you say, and responds with energy, a good attitude and a smile. Such an agent will attract buyers too.

Consistency and stick-to-itiveness can usually be found together also.. an agent willing to repeat the same tasks over and over without quitting. Locating a buyer for your home is not a simple task. It is accomplished through the exercise of determination in the face of rejection. It means not giving up- no matter what.

Along with these traits, you need an agent who will readily provide you with a list of references of sellers, that you can call and speak freely with. Question these sellers about both the pluses and minuses of working with this agent. You want to get a true picture of exactly what it will be like to work with this agent.

Steve Black

Vice Chair League of Gay & Lesbian Voters

1322 Center Street Bethlehem, PA 18018 610-865-7890

333 S. Camac Street Philadelphia, PA 19107 215-735-0852

Horrorscoops by Evil Esther



PISCES Feb.19-March 20

June will start out like any other month for you but towards month's end, things will start falling apart. Your health may prevent you from attending all those group outings. Probably just a cold sore but, yuck, is that ugly! If you happen to be one of those shutter bugs, or even worse a video camera junkie, you may want to loan out your equipment for a while. Your



GEMINI May 21-June 20

AQUARIUS

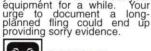
Jan. 20-Feb.18

Happy Birthday to you, Happy Birthday to you, old horses without energy, often end up as glue! Really, your going to have to work hard not to just lay around this month. Your lay around this month. Your friends will start thinking you're just not any fun any more!



LIBRA Sept.23-Oct.22

Things look great in the beginning of June for you. That person you've been seeing seems to really care about you. Wake Up!! You've been dreaming again. Unfortunately, June looks like a case of the same old routine.



CANCER June 21-July 22

Who says an old dog can't learn new tricks. The key word there was tricks. Why is it that as soon as the weather starts turning nicer, you have to start looking down the lane? A solid word of advice for you is saltpeter. Getting a clue?



SCORPIO Oct.23-Nov.21

What is that smell? has been around for a while now, and there can be no time like the present for cleaning that messy apartment. Your friends have been noticing. Haven't you wondered why they only meet you at the bar?



March 21-April 19

You just have to beat everyone else to a great tan. Watch out this month that you don't over do it too early. You could end do it too early. You could end up looking like a molting lizard by the time all your sensible friends are sporting a healthy glow. Not that you would listen!



L.EO July 23-Aug.22

Go ahead run, run, run. It doesn't really matter how much you try this month, you are destined to go up on the scale rather than down. With summer approaching quickly, you had better start shopping in the baggy department!



SAGITTARIUS Nov.22-Dec.21

Oh love, isn't it grand? I guess it would be if you had any chance at seeing it. June will not be marked as a month for any cupid visits, but you will have plenty of time to catch up on your reading. Don't despair, there are 12 months to a year.



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TAURUS April 20-May 20

If it wasn't for your tendency to think your way is always the best, you could probably do well at your job this month. But sad truth be told, you will probably piss off the boss, and the good fortune will pass on to another. Who needs money!



VIRGO Aug.23-Sept.22

For such an organized person, you sure do know how to mess things up. Your irritating habit of waiting until the last possible minute to go somewhere could work against you this month. Don't forget, you really can't change a tire!



CAPRICORN Dec.22-Jan.19

If you've been looking through If you've been looking through any of the other horrorscoops this month, you've probably already thought, so what horrible thing will happen to me? But a wonderful...oops you know, I'm only allotted so much space. Bummer!

*Horrorscoops are published for entertainment purposes only. Anyone running their life based on them is obviously in need of good therapy!! Life is short. Have a little Fun!!

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Another Angel Ascends

We recently received news from Oakland, California that Tom Kichline had lost his long battle with AIDS. Throughout his extended illness Tom never lost his zest for living.

For those of you old enough to remember downtown Allentown in the seventies, it was Tom who was responsible for the shocking, avant-garde window displays that graced the Cinruss Store on Hamilton Street. Tom had a unique flair and sense of style.

The world grew a little colder when it lost Tom, but is warmed by the memories of happier times with our friend.

24)

"GAYLUVER'S TRAVELS"

by Beau Hunter

Remember the TV show KUNG FU? How about the INCREDIBLE HUNK? Both featured good-hearted drifters who managed to end up in a new town and a new adventure every week.

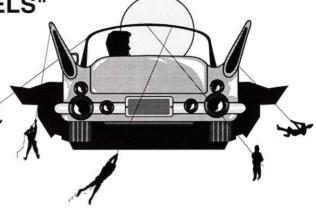
This travel column doesn't always list the tourist attractions, best restaurants or places to stay in its featured cities. It certainly isn't about the glamour cities that have been written about to death. It's about the little adventures that can happen if you get off the highway, comb your hair, and rally your best attitude.

January 1992 Episode: It's Sunday, 8 PM and Beau is attending a gay rap group in the Shadyside section of Pittsburgh. I found this one in the "Ongoing Events" section of OUT, the local gay paper. I'd like to say, my conversation was stimulating, and handsome men just couldn't wait to entertain me after the meeting. Actually, a nerdy guy I once met among a group of people in New York City rushed over first. He says, "You're from out of town? So am I!" I winced, thinking how the whole thing reminded me of Joe Piscopo doing the "You're from Jersey? I'm from Jersey!" routine on SATURDAY NIGHT LIVE. He goes on and on, and the others quickly leave as it's a work day tomorrow.

The nerd, who finally reminds me his name is Joe, asks me for a ride to the bus station. I agree, but ask that he show me where the (now formerly) STOCK EXCHANGE CLUB is. Joe says "You're going out tonight?" I said, "Sure am. Want to come along?" Joe goes into this Woody Allen-like self argument about how this could be a bad thing for him to do. "So you don't want to go, I gather? Well, how about that, we're at the bus station," I announce. "I'll go," Joe says to my chagrin. "You may get lost, and you need company," he justifies in a way that sounds like he's rescuing me from a terrible fate.

The club had a good crowd for a Sunday, and the dance floor was half full at 11 PM. We're barely inside and Joe says, "let's dance." He may seem like a nerd, but he's certainly not shy. He also informs me that he is a former alcoholic, and that dancing keeps his mind of f how he used to drink in bars. I'm thinking, I wish he was a recovering "guiltoholic," as he's been doing a great guilt trip on me.

After several dances, Joe is warming up and I sense he may go into SATURDAY NIGHT FEVER moves soon. I excuse myself to get sodas. While at the bar, a gentleman approaches me and asks if he had seen me at the rap group meeting earlier. I didn't remember him, so we reintroduced ourselves. He was Robert. We talked for a while, then he says, "Can I impose on you? My car died several blocks from here and I need a jump or a push." I try to discreetly scratch at my back, checking for a "sucker" or "ask me anything" sign that



some prankster might have stuck there. I'm annoyed and suspicious, but still I say, "No problem." After all, he could be telling the truth.

"I came here hoping there'd be someone I know to help, but you're the only one I recognize", he offers, half apologetic. Joe, who I had forgotten about, comes up at this point. "Do you have my soda? Oh, Robert, what are you doing here?" I jump at this opportunity. "Robert, why don't you fill Joe in while I go to the bathroom."

On the way back, I stop for a drink at the other end of the bar hoping they won't see me. I also want a chance to talk to the blond at the bar who's been watching me all night. New faces in town usually attract attention, but with this cast of characters around me, some people were definitely curious about my scenario.

The blond's name is Paul, and we end up laughing and having a great rapport. I'm enjoying this so much, but I'm terrorized that Joe and Robert will see me and come running over. Thankfully, they are now on the dance floor together.

As time goes by, it becomes clear that I could go home to Paul's place, but then reality sets in. I had promised to take Joe to the bus station and help Robert start his car. I also had to be at work early the next day. So that's what I did.

Paul seemed stunned that I could turn his offer down, especially to help these two misfits. But, that in itself could have tarnished my opinion of Paul.

You may be thinking at this point, "What kind of adventure is this, Beau?" Well, grasshopper, sometimes it's not about sex or romance, it's about keeping promises and experiencing the differences in people. Joe was funny to be with, in an odd way. Robert turned out to be sincere and thankful. And Paul? Well, the adrenaline coursed through my body as I sped out of town, the skyline looming in my rear view mirror, and I felt warm all over thinking of my good deeds. But I was also smiling because I had Paul's phone number securely stashed in my shirt pocket!

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LYNN LAVNER SCHEDULED TO PERFORM IN THE LEHIGH VALLEY

Lynn Lavner is coming to PRIDE Festival '95... and the Lehigh Valley will never be the same. Talking with the nationally known performer is like being on a train with no brakes! The only difference is that you're not worried about

getting to your destination because you're having too much fun along the way. She's funny, talented, intelligent, and one heck of a performer. When this woman, who bills herself as a "Jewish leather lesbian," gets done with an audience, they know they've seen something special.

Lynn is excited about being the headline act at this year's PRIDE Festival. She says it's important to her to be a part of gay pride activities in places other than major cities, "Gays have come home to America, and the Lehigh Valley Festival is part of that." In the 13 years that Lynn has been performing as an "out lesbian," she says she's seen a lot of changes in

acceptance of gays, "We're on TV, we're in the movies, it's great!" She says she's proud to see gays and lesbians persevere in less than friendly environments, stating "We've always been oppressed, but no matter what people do to us, we're still here."

She's played to crowds around the country and in places like France, England, and as far away as Australia but says a gay audience always makes her feel welcome no matter where she is, "You can travel a billion miles and still find yourself at home."

And Audiences do respond to her. Her style of original music and comedy touches a place we can all relate to. One of her main goals as a performer is to encourage gays and lesbians to feel good about themselves, to be proud of who they are and the community they belong to.

In just a few days the Lehigh Valley will get the opportunity to feel the energy Lynn Lavner exudes on stage. She'll be at the Stonewall Saturday, June 10th and at the PRIDE Festival on Sunday, June 11th.

So get on board and get ready for the ride of your life!



Ask AUNT BESS

My dear, sweet nieces and nephews,

Is it at all possible that you have forgotten about your old Aunt Bess? Last month, I called the editor each and every week, but to my dismay, there were no letters sent.

I can only hope that the best is true... None of you are having any problems with your love and your life. All of you are so busy with your spring cleaning that you are simply left with no extra time to drop your poor aunt a note of hello. Perhaps many of you are just so tired after working off those extra winter pounds that you can't even seem to lift anything as light as a pen.

Well, all I can say then is... Bunk, Bunk, BUNK!!! Do you really expect me to believe you have learned how to clean, finally started exercising, or found eternal happiness and bliss? I know you all too well!

Oh dear! Did I just say all of that? It must have been that dried out old pork chop I ate while sitting alone thinking about all my dear nieces and nephews. Please forgive me for that unexpected outburst, but you know, even sweet, little, withered, old aunts need attention!!

Just bear in mind, Lehigh Valley, I have recently received news that my family has just been expanded. I can only hope I still have time for YOU, when you decide to come back crying on my shoulder.

Oh, all right already, you know I'll always be there.

Write me, I miss you!

Send your letters to Aunt Bess c/o **AboveGround** PO Box 1656 Allentown, PA 18105-1656

Suzza yazinemiliqmez zashes

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REALTY...continued from page 21

When choosing an agent to sell your home, ask questions - lots of them Look for the traits mentioned here, and you can enjoy the benefits of an early sale at a favorable price.

As a special offer to the readership of "AboveGround", I am offering a free report - "The 10 Most Important Questions You Need To Ask When Hiring A Realtor" Call our 24-hour Message Center at (610)433-7919 and request your list. Leave your name, address, phone and the title of this report. It will be mailed in 24 hours - free!

Gail Hoover, Realtor, is with Patt-White Co., Better Homes & Gardens, serving the entire Lehigh Valley. She can be reached at (610)439-1491.

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Poetry

A FRIEND

All through the years
Friends come and go
Saying good-bye with tears
But my memories won't let go.

As a child I played in the sun Sand and shovel, baseball too Fighting was also true With shaking hands, friendship came through.

Thinking of those school years
Close friends drift away
I loved them very dearly
If they moved or chose to stay.

Some are a part of you Even thicker than blood I know them since my youth Even more as an adult. To keep in touch is very hard By time and oceans apart Thoughts come to our hearts Of precious moments of the past.

In sickness and in health Like a marriage we were one Nothing could come between us Like the bond, of my friend and I.

Like twins we became one Our laughter, tears and pain Were parts of our lives That we share till the end.

Now I'm old and gray But not alone till this day I carry with me always The memories of my friend.

Omelio E. Rodriguez "Rod"



Sunday, June 11th 12noon - 6pm

(Rain or Shine)

From Silence to Celebration!

Lehigh Valley

PRIDE

Keith Christopher

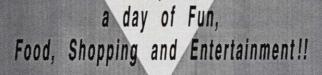


Lynn Lavner

FCStival 95



Doug Stevens & The Outband



Destiny



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CALL THE PRIDE INFOLINE: 610-770-6200

Community Kesources

AIDS Related Groups

AIDS Outreach 112 N. 5th St. Allentown, PA 18102 610-435-8424

AIDS Services Center 60 W. Broad St. Suite 205 Bethlehem, PA 18108 610-974-8701

F.A.C.T. P.O. Box 1028 Allentown, PA 18105 610-820-5519

Latino AIDS Outreach (610) 861-6845

FACT Bucks County P.O. Box 616 Buckingham, PA 18912

If your organization would like to be listed in this section write to us at AboveGround or call (610) 821-1321.

Bars/Clubs

Candida 247 N. 12th St. Allentown, PA 18102 610-434-3071

The New Cartwheel Route 202 New Hope, PA 18938 215-862-0880

Diamonz 1913 W. Broad St. Bethlehem, PA 18018 610-865-1028

The Raven 385 W. Bridge St. New Hope, PA 18938 215-862-2081

Scarab 724 Franklin St. Reading, PA 19604 610-375-7878

Stonewall / Moose Lounge 28-31 N. 10th St. Allentown, PA 18101 610-432-0215

18043-3694

(610)821-2955

Religious Groups

Universal Life Church, Inc. Rev. Joél S. Diehl, DD,MsD. 610-433-5325 *please leave message.	Grace Covenant Fellowshi 247 N. 10th St. Allentown, PA 18102 610-740-0247						
MCC of the Lehigh Valley -worship at St. John's UC	Integrity 610-395-1785 610-758-8642						
6th & Walnut Sts. Allentown, PA 18102 (610)439-8755	Hope Ministries Rev. Bob J. Forté 610-791-0716 24 hrs leave message.						

Misc. Organizations							
PRIDE of the Lehigh Valley P.O. Box 20804 Lehigh Valley, PA 18002 610-770-6200	Lehigh Valley Gay Men's Chorus P.O. Box 20712 Lehigh Valley, PA 18002 610-740-0247 610-821-0578						
Lehigh Valley Gay & Lesbian Task Force PO Box 20253 Lehigh Valley, PA 18002 610-515-1551	P-FLAG c/o Barbara Fasick 2040 Lehigh St. #710 Easton, PA 18042 610-258-4794						
League of Gay & Lesbian Voters Lehigh Valley Chapter P.O. Box 20781 Lehigh Valley, PA 18002-0781	Lehigh Valley Lesbians Unitarian Univ. Church Bethlehem, PA (610) 253-5454 meetings - 3rd Thursday of every month						
NorthEastern Pennsylvania TransGender Assoc. NEPTGA Meeting 2nd Sat. monthly Beginning in July P.O. Box 3694 Easton, PA	Velvet Spikers volley ball - tennis P.O. Box 21862 Lehigh Valley, PA 18002-1862 610-434-2966						

ABOVE V GROUND

Your Source for News & Views in and around the Lehigh Valley

☐ male friends ☐ female friends ☐ help wanted ☐ services

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Classifieds / Personals

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Fill out the boxes at left exactly as you would like your ad to appear. Leave a space between each word. Check the heading you would like to have your ad run under. Calculate the price based on number of lines and send check or money order made payable to "COBALT BLUE" along with form to: AboveGround

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Anything submitted to AboveGround must be received by the 15th of the month to be published in the following months issue. Anything received after that date will be held over to the next issue.

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June 3 1-3
240 N. 10th St.
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\$780.00 Payment

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SERVICES

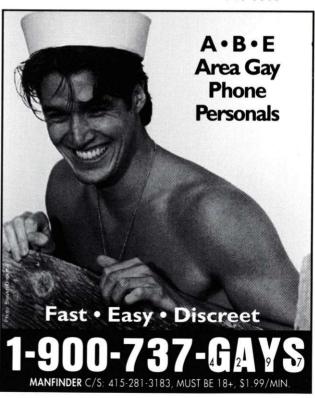
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